



REDISTRICTING ACADEMY NEW YORK

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	Total Seats	Seats Held by Latinos	% Seats Held by Latinos
U.S. House of Representative	27	6	22.2%
New York State Senate	63	5	7.9%
New York State Assembly	150	15	10%

New York Redistricting Map-Drawing Session

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The Steps to Redistricting

1



Census

Completed ✓

2



Reapportionment

Completed ✓


3



Redistricting

Ongoing



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The Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC)

Independent Members

Appointed by Senate Majority



Dr. Ivelisse Cuevas-Molina
Political Science Professor
New York City



David Imamura, Chair
Civil Litigator
Westchester



Dr. John Flatau
Business Professor
New York City

Appointed by Senate Minority



John Conway III
Former Senate Attorney
Albany



Jack Martins, Vice-Chair
Former State Senator
Long Island

Appointed by Assembly Majority



Ross Brady
Attorney and Administrator
New York City



Eugene Benger
Attorney
New York City



Elaine Frazier
Veteran State Employee
Albany

Appointed by Assembly Minority



Charles Nesbitt
Former Assembly Minority Leader
Western NY



Willis H. Stephens, Jr.
Former Assembly Member
Westchester

Other Key Decision Makers in NY Redistricting Process



NYS Governor



NYS Senators &
Assemblymembers



Organizers &
Coalitions



YOU

IRC in Action



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**Public Hearings
and Testimony**

①

Completed ✓



**IRC Publishes
Initial Drafts of Maps**

②

Completed ✓



**Public Input Hearings
on Published Maps**

③

Ongoing



**IRC Submits Map
Recommendations to NY
State Legislature**

④

What happens after the IRC submits the map recommendations?



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- The IRC submits the map recommendations to the NY State Legislature. The State Legislature can either approve the recommendations and send to the Governor for her signature, or reject the recommended map.
- If the maps drawn by the IRC are rejected by the State Legislature, the IRC can send a second round of recommended maps to the legislature. If the recommendations are approved, the maps are sent to the Governor for her signature.
- If the second set of recommended maps is rejected by the State Legislature, the responsibility to draw the congressional maps falls on the legislators. Once the new set of maps is drawn they are sent to the Governor's desk for approval.
- The Governor of New York has the power to veto redistricting legislation.



IRC Key Dates and Next Steps



- The IRC concluded the first round of public hearings and published the initial draft of proposed maps. The initial proposed maps can be viewed here: www.nyirc.gov/draft-plans
- The IRC will be holding public commentary meeting on the proposed maps from **October 20 to November 23, 2021**. You can see the schedule here: www.nyirc.gov/meetings
- Feedback from the public will help the IRC Commissioners draw fair Senate and Assembly district lines that make sense and keep our communities together. **These maps will last 10 years.**
- If the IRC's proposed maps are not approved by the legislature, the commission has until **February 28, 2022** to submit a second draft of proposed maps.
- The legislature will have the responsibility of drafting district maps if they reject the second map proposal made by the IRC.

Upcoming IRC Hearings

Richmond County

November 15 – 3:00 PM

Kings County

November 16 – 3:00 PM

Queens County

November 17 – 3:00 PM

Nassau County

November 22 – 4:00 PM

Suffolk County

November 23 – 4:00 PM

Previous Hearings

Southern Tier Region, October 25 – Syracuse, October 26 – North Country, October 27

Albany, November 1 – White Plains, November 8 – Bronx County, November 9

New York County, November 10



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The Independent Redistricting Commission

**What are the principles that guide the commission in
drawing redistricting maps?**



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State Constitutional Redistricting Requirements in New York N.Y. State Constitution Article III, §4

Protecting Rights of Racial Groups

Contiguity

Competition

Protecting Language Groups

Compactness

Maintaining Existing Districts



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State Constitutional Redistricting Requirements in New York

N.Y. State Constitution Article III, §4

- **Protecting Voting Rights of Racial or Language Groups** – "When drawing district lines, the commission shall consider whether such lines would result in the denial or abridgement of racial or language minority voting rights, and districts shall not be drawn to have the purpose of, nor shall they result in, the denial or abridgement of such rights."
- **Contiguity** – "Each state shall consist of contiguous territory." – Meaning you can travel from any point in the district to any other point within such district without crossing the district boundary.
- **Compactness** – Each district shall be as compact in form as practicable.
- **Competition** – Districts cannot be drawn to discourage competition or for the purpose of favoring or disfavoring a particular candidate or political party, and the commission must also consider maintaining existing districts.
- **Political Boundaries** – The redistricting plan must heed county and municipal boundaries and preserve the integrity of county and city lines as much as is possible. The commission shall consider the maintenance of cores of existing districts, of pre-existing political subdivisions, including counties, cities, and towns, and of communities of interest.



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Protecting Language and Racial Groups

Are racial or language minority groups harmed by this district?

For example – does this district prevent a racial or language minority group like Latinos or Spanish speakers from being able to vote for a candidate of their choice?

Examples:

- **Despite Latinos being the majority of the population in the Bronx, the Commission decides to draw districts in a manner that guarantees the Latino community is not a majority in ANY of the districts.**
- **Spanish language speakers are split into districts where they are the minority group. This leads to a district where there are fewer polling places with Spanish language interpreters.**
- **The Commission decides that instead of having two majority Latino Senate seats, it will put them together to create one SUPER MAJORITY seat. Sounds ideal? Now instead of having two Latino preferred candidates in our senate we would only have one.**



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Latino Elected Representatives in New York State

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19.5% of New Yorkers Identify as Latino



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Contiguity

Are all parts of this district connected? Can I travel from one point of the district to any other point without crossing the district boundaries?

A district is considered contiguous if all parts of the district are in physical contact with some other part of the district. Generally, a district is also considered contiguous if the district is split by a body of water, but there is a method of transport over the water, such as a bridge or ferry service.

Example: A district that connects Staten Island with Brooklyn can be seen as contiguous if connected by continuous ferry service.



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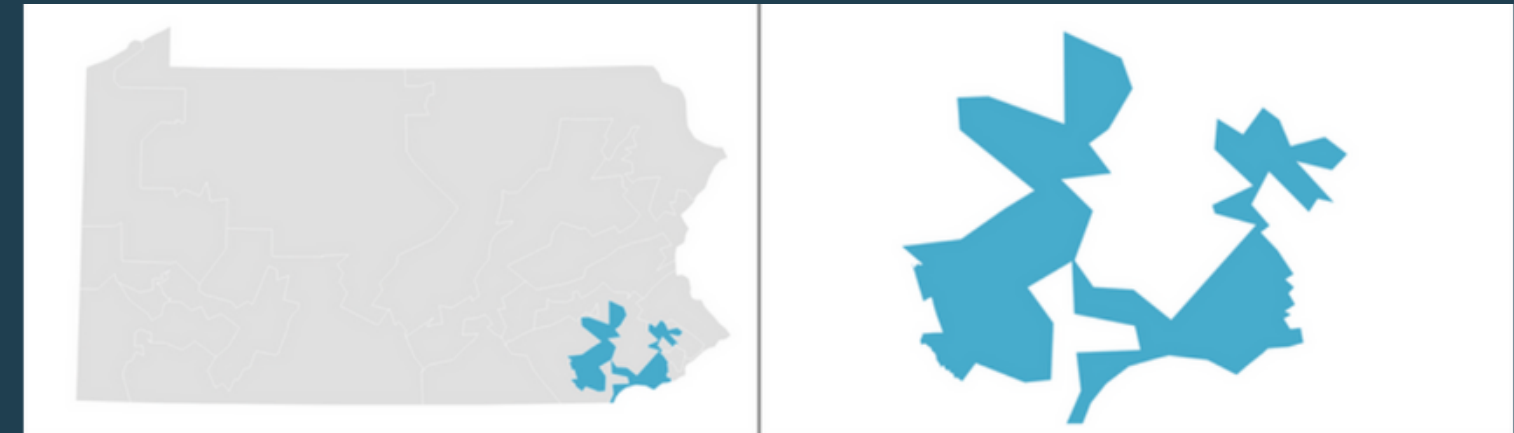
Compactness

When is a district compact? No clear definition, however we can consider the following:

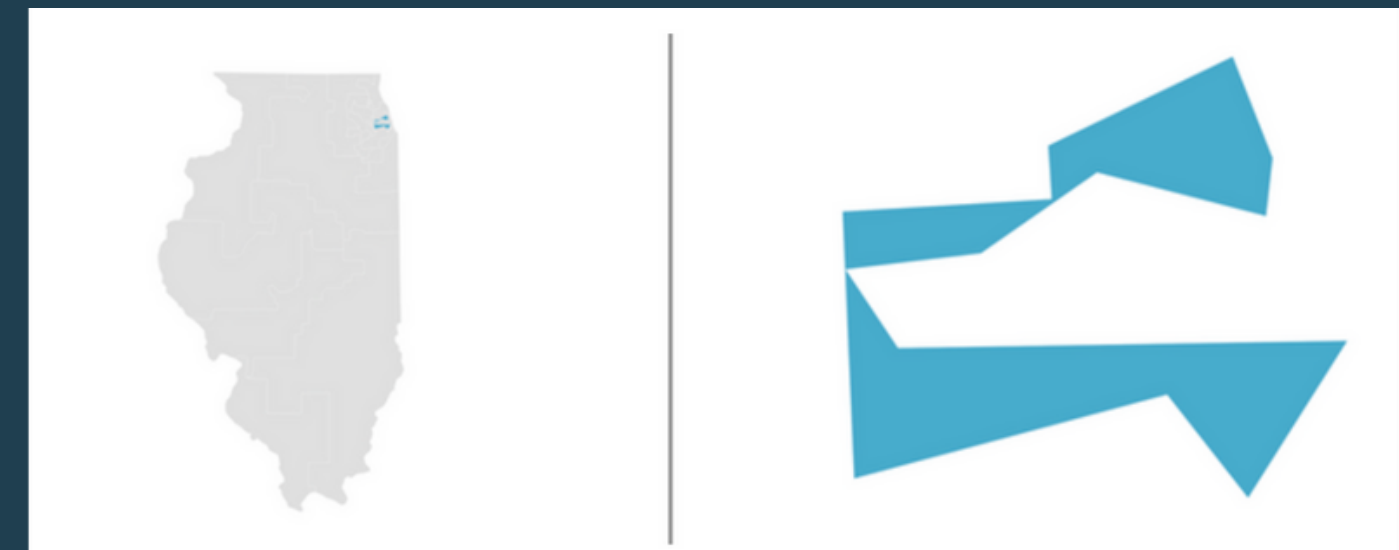
- Do the residents within this district live as near to each other as possible?
- When looking at the district does it resemble a certain geometric shape?



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District in Pennsylvania where residents lived up to 50 miles apart from one another. The district cut through farmland, 1 parking lot street, and many other “unnatural” divisions.



District in Illinois which unites two Latino communities. May not seem compact, but separating the communities would dilute the voting power of Latinos in the area.

Political Boundaries

The redistricting plan **must heed county and municipal boundaries and preserve the integrity of county and city lines as much as is possible.**

The commission shall consider the maintenance of cores of existing districts, of pre-existing political subdivisions, including counties, cities, and towns, and of communities of interest.

Communities of Interest – What are they?

- A community of interest is a group of people concentrated in a geographic area who share similar interests and priorities whether social, cultural, ethnic, economic, religious or political.
- Another way of understanding a community of interest is that it is simply a way for a community to tell its own story about what neighbors share in common, and what makes it unique when compared to surrounding communities.
- A community of interest is likely to have similar legislative and community concerns and interests and would benefit from representation in a single electoral district.



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Examples of Communities of Interest

- A group of business owners in the Washington Heights area
- An environmental focused neighborhood concerned about the installation of a waste plant in the Bronx
- Group of parents concerned about overcrowding of schools in a Brooklyn neighborhood
- A new immigrant population from India in Queens

Are you part of a community of interest in your neighborhood?

Is your community of interest encompassed into one voting district or split into several?



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How You Can Get Involved



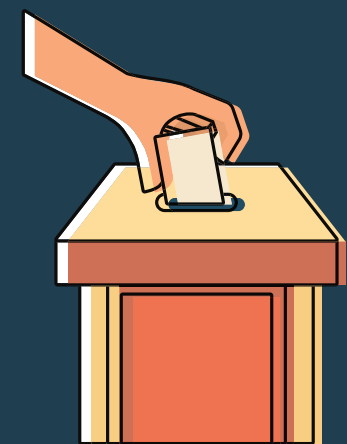
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**Inform
Neighbors & Friends**



**Sign/Create
Petitions**



Vote in ALL Elections



Social Media



**Join
Groups/Coalitions**



**Provide
Testimony**



**Engage
with Stakeholders**



Learn More & Take Action

- Visit RedistrictingAcademy.org or RedistribucionLegislativa.org to watch informational videos about redistricting.
- Visit our resources page to find out opportunities to testify in favor of a fair redistricting process.



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